

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the application in view of the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. Claim 3 depends from claim 2.

Drawings

The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings for the referenced application mailed on November 7, 2003, are acceptable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 7-19820 (“JP”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention, as recited in the claims, is directed to a magnetic recording apparatus that includes a lock releasing arm with a claw (31) that is configured to come into contact with a cassette inserting direction (*i.e.*, direction “A” in FIG. 1) side of the hole (13) in the cassette until the cassette is automatically loaded. More specifically, the side wall (31a-1) on the cassette inserting direction of the claw (31) is configured to come into contact with the cassette inserting direction side of the hole (13) in the cassette. Thus, when the claw (31) comes into contact with the cassette as discussed above, the cassette is not able to move in a direction opposite to the insertion direction (*i.e.*, the cassette is not able to move in the ejecting direction).

The magnetic recording apparatus recited in the claims also includes a projection (22a). The projection (22a) is configured such that when the front of the cassette comes into contact with the projection, the projection (22a) initiates a series of mechanical events (*see* Instant Specification, paragraph [0030]) that ultimately result in the claw (31) coming into contact with the hole (13) in the cassette in the manner discussed above.

Turning to the rejection, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. The Applicant respectfully asserts that JP does not teach or suggest the following limitations:

- (i) JP fails to teach or suggest a “projection” as recited in the claims. Specifically, when the front of the cassette comes into contact with the projection, a series of mechanical events are triggered such that the claw comes into contact with the hole in the cassette. Thus, the projection, as recited in the claims, is used to trigger the action of the claw coming into contact with the hole in the cassette. In contrast, the projection identified by the Examiner in Figure 4 of JP (*see* Office Action mailed February 4, 2005, Examiner’s Drawings) is not connected to the claw (12a) in a manner that would allow it to trigger the claw (12a) to come into contact with the hole in the cassette. Rather, the projection identified by the Examiner is isolated from the claw (12a). Thus, JP does not teach or suggest a projection as recited in the claims.
- (ii) JP fails to teach or suggest a claw including a sidewall on a cassette inserting direction side that comes into contact with a sidewall on the cassette inserting direction side of the hole in the cassette. Rather, JP only shows a claw that is configured to contact the sidewall on a cassette *ejecting* direction side of the hole in the cassette (*See* JP, Figure 2). Thus, JP does not teach or suggest a claw as recited in the claims.

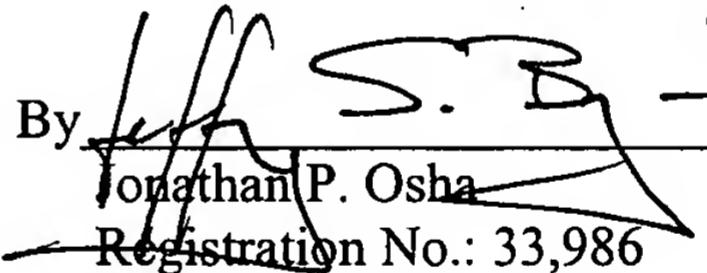
In view of the above, JP fails to teach or suggest all the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 2. Thus, independent claims 1 and 2 are patentable over JP. Dependent claim 3 is patentable over JP for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/114001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

45,925